

Serial No. 10/755,737

Atty. Doc. No. 2001P07236WOUS

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicant reserves the right to pursue any of the original un-amended claims presented in this application at a later date in one or more continuing applications.

1. (withdrawn) A method for operating a steam power plant comprising:  
providing a steam generator;  
providing a combustion chamber operatively connected to the steam generator;  
feeding pre-warmed combustion air and a fossil fuel into the combustion chamber;  
releasing the combustion air ~~in an output-producing manner through an air turbine after~~  
~~the combustion air is being~~ pre-warmed and before being introduced into the combustion chamber; and

connecting a regulating device to the air turbine and a temperature sensor such that the regulating device controls the output to be extracted from the combustion air as the combustion air flows through the air turbine; and

setting the output extracted during release on the basis of a characteristic value for the temperature of the combustion air flowing toward the combustion chamber.

2. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein a pneumatic conveyor provided for compressing the combustion air is driven via the output gained when releasing the pre-warmed combustion air.

3. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein the combustion air is pre-warmed within the steam generator.

4. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein the combustion air is pre-warmed via flue gas flowing from a gas turbine.

5. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 4, wherein feed water is pre-warmed for the steam generator via the flue gas flowing from the gas turbine.

**Serial No. 10/755,737**

**Atty. Doc. No. 2001P07236WOUS**

6. (withdrawn) A steam power plant comprising:  
a steam generator for generating steam;  
a combustion chamber operatively connected to the steam generator for the combustion of a fossil fuel, the combustion chamber connected on an inlet side to a fuel pipe and a fresh air pipe for receiving combustion air, whereby an air turbine is mounted downstream from an air pre-warmer in the fresh air pipe; and  
a regulating device operatively connected to the air turbine, the regulating device connected on the inlet side to a temperature sensor arranged on the fresh air pipe.
7. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 6, wherein the air turbine drives a pneumatic conveyor mounted upstream from the air pre-warmer in the fresh air pipe.
8. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 7, wherein the pneumatic conveyor is designed as an air compressor that can generate an output pressure of approximately 4 to 5 bar.
9. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 6, wherein the air pre-warmer is arranged within the steam generator.
10. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 6, wherein the air pre-warmer is mounted on the primary side in a flue gas duct downstream of a gas turbine.
11. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 10, wherein a feed water pre-warmer assigned to the steam generator is mounted on the primary side in the flue gas duct downstream of the gas turbine.
12. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein the combustion air is partially released in an output-producing manner.
13. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 1, wherein the characteristic value is the temperature level or the pressure.

**Serial No. 10/755,737****Atty. Doc. No. 2001P07236WOUS**

14. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 2, wherein the combustion air is pre-warmed within the steam generator.
15. (currently amended) A The method according to Claim 2, wherein the combustion air is pre-warmed via flue gas flowing from a gas turbine.
16. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 7, wherein the air pre-warmer is arranged within the steam generator.
17. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 8, wherein the air pre-warmer is arranged within the steam generator.
18. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 7, wherein the air pre-warmer is mounted on the primary side in a flue gas duct downstream of a gas turbine.
19. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 8, wherein the air pre-warmer is mounted on the primary side in a flue gas duct downstream of a gas turbine.
20. (withdrawn) A steam power plant according to Claim 9, wherein the air pre-warmer is mounted on the primary side in a flue gas duct downstream of a gas turbine.
21. (new) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the temperature of the pre heated combustion air is cooled by expanding the combustion air through the air turbine.
22. (new) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the combustion air is cooled to a temperature level adapted to a specific operating state of the steam power plant.
23. (new) The method according to Claim 21, wherein the pre heated combustion air is compressed by a compressor powered by the expanded combustion air from the air turbine.